



HALL MARKS.

ILLUSTRATED.

1560 TO 1915.

A Complete List of Hall Marks and Date Letters on Gold
and Silver Plate and Jewellery,

BY

WILLIAM REDMAN.

(AUTHOR OF THE JEWELLERS' GUIDE AND HANDY
REFERENCE BOOK.)

And a List of the
GREAT DIAMONDS OF THE WORLD,

REVISED BY

EDWIN W. STREETER, F.R.G.S.,

BOND STREET, LONDON.

PUBLISHED BY
WILLIAM REDMAN,
ST. STEPHEN'S ROAD,
BRADFORD.

Entered at Stationers' Hall.



PRICE 6d., POST FREE 7d.

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ASSAY MASTERS' OPINIONS.

Assay Office, Goldsmith Hall,

London, August 1st, 1893.

Dear Sir,—As regards the merits of such a work as produced, I have much pleasure in expressing my highest approval, as I have no doubt whatever that such a handy book of reference and useful information cannot fail to be of service both to the members of the trade, and also to amateurs generally; at all events, I trust it will meet your expectations, and with the success it deserves.

W. REDMAN, Esq.

Yours faithfully,

W. ROBINSON.

Glasgow,

5th August, 1893.

This work as a Book of reference on the subject of the Hall-marking of Gold and Silver Plate must be very useful, not only to the Trade, but also to the general public, from the amount of useful information it contains comprised in a small compass.

JAMES BLACK, *Assay Master*,

To Mr W. REDMAN.

Glasgow Goldsmith Company.

Assay Office, Chester,

August 19th, 1893.

Dear Sir,—I have looked through your book, and think that it will be found very useful to those needing such a work, especially for the Plates of the different Hall-marks and the table of date letters.

W. REDMAN, Esq.

Yours truly,

JAS. F. LOWE.

Assay Office,

5, Fleet Street, Dublin,

July 31st, 1893.

Dear Sir,—In reference to your work on Hall-marking, I consider it will be most useful to the Trade. Wishing you success with your Book,

I remain yours respectfully,

W. REDMAN, Esq.

S. W. LEBASS.

British Horological Institute,

London,

29th Aug., 1893.

MR WILLIAM REDMAN,

Dear Sir,—I have had an opportunity of reading your "Hall-marks" carefully, and venture to congratulate you on what is certainly a very interesting and instructive work, and I believe a complete review of the subject as well. I wish you every success with it.

Faithfully yours,

F. J. BRITTEN, *Sec.*



P R E F A C E .

The object of the present work may be stated in a few words. For many years the Author of this work has been a collector of the various publications which exist on the subject of Hall-Marks on Gold and Silver Plate, but failed to find the particular information which is required for handy reference compacted within a single volume.

“The Jewellers’ Guide and Handy Reference Book,” (three editions), which we published some years ago found a ready sale, and was highly complimented by some of the best authorities in England.

Experience has taught us that a work of this kind must be concise and to the point, in order to make it useful to those who are wishful to know more of the subject.

To write the history of every mark that is and has been used at the different Halls would make the work tedious and unreadable. We have tried to say everything needful in as few words as possible, the illustrations and date-letters being complete and up to date.

Hall-Marking was established for the benefit of the public, as a guarantee of the genuineness of the article so marked.

In politics certain devices may be practised, and are allowed for party purposes, but the governing institutions of a civilised country should be so framed as to protect the personal right and property of each and all alike.

The standard of the currency is carefully attended to and maintained. Anyone trying to pass or being found in possession of base coin are severely dealt with, yet certain marks are allowed in imitation of the Hall-Mark, on spurious metal, which are intended to deceive the public. We hope the law on this point will soon be altered, and that no mark will be allowed on any article except such as are marked at the proper assay office. No honest tradesman would lose anything by such an alteration ; fraud is not needful to bolster up any business.

It is our intention as far as possible to make plain to readers of this work the real Hall-Marks on jewellery and plate. In order to do this efficiently, we have lately visited (by permission) Birmingham, Chester,

and Sheffield Assay Offices. In each case we were received with kindness and courtesy, and everything pertaining to the work of assaying and marking was freely explained to us. These offices are well equipped for the work they have to do—a work which is continually increasing.

In order to prevent any mistake in this work, a proof copy has been submitted to each assay master for correction. Years ago we stated in the "Jewellers' Guide" that the question of Hall-Marking would be more appreciated in the future as it became more understood, because the public are better satisfied when they know a thing is real, and will gladly pay more than the difference in cost. The idea of abolishing the Hall-Mark is now out of the question, for gold and silver articles of every description must now be Hall-Marked; even the tobacco pipe will sell better if the silver on the stem is Hall-Marked. Now that the Duty Mark (which was some guide as to the date of the article) is not in use, we will take the liberty to recommend the Assay Masters and Warders to use as many different kinds of cycles as possible, and thereby keep the same kinds of date letter very far apart.

The duty of 1/6 per ounce on silver, and 17/- per ounce on gold plate, including wedding rings, was abolished on the 30th of April, 1890. This has proved very satisfactory to the trade, and great credit is due to Mr Watherston, F.S.S. for the spirit and energy he put forth to bring this about.

This work is but brief, yet it contains all that is practically necessary on the subject.

In conclusion, it is hoped that this collection will realise the earnest purpose with which it has been compiled—to make known to the trade and public generally the laws and nature of Hall-Marking gold and silver-plate and jewellery.

We take this opportunity of expressing our thanks, for assistance rendered, to Mr. W. Robinson, Deputy Warden of the Goldsmiths' Company, and to the Assay Masters of all the provincial towns; also, our grateful thanks are due to Mr. E. W. Streeter, F.R.G.S., of Bond Street, London, author of "Precious Stones and Gems, and other works, for his kindness in revising the list of "Great Diamonds."

WM. REDMAN.

*St. Stephen's Road,
Bradford.*

TREATISE ON HALL-MARKS.

GOLD.

In every civilized country in the world gold takes the first rank. As a precious metal, it is associated with all that is grand and magnificent, costly and rich. More than a thousand years before Christ, gold was often mentioned in the pages of Sacred History. To write the history of gold and give particulars of its physical properties, &c., would take up a few months of leisure hours, and fill a good-sized book. In trade and commerce, gold plays an important part: it is the standard token of the realm, beloved and coveted by all classes of society, from the peasant to the Queen; it is the pride and strength of individuals and nations; it beautifies and adorns, gives wealth and power, and we are sorry to say it has been the ruin of thousands, and caused more divisions, ill will and hatred in families than all other causes put together.

The specific gravity of gold is $19\frac{1}{4}$ times heavier than water. A nugget of pure gold six inches square would weigh a fraction over 150 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Same size in silver and copper in equal parts would weigh one quarter that of gold.

Gold can be beaten into leaves 200,000th of an inch in thickness: one half sovereign, or 61 grains, can be made to spread over a surface of 3294 square feet. Almost everything we see is adorned with gold, even the paper on the wall, the pictures, the ornaments, the edges and covers of books, the panels of the doors, crockery of all kinds is embellished with the noble metal. Gold is also used by professional men and others in many ways: by dentists for false roofs, broken jaws, and for stopping decayed teeth; and by medical men for fractured skulls, &c.

By the human race everywhere, from the finest lady in Europe to the red indian, or the uncivilized negro in Africa, gold is sought after for adornments. On the other hand the miser and the avaricious man will sell themselves for it.

“Let your moderation be known to all men.”

In every quarter of the globe, gold has been found in abundance. In the time of David and Solomon, gold was as plentiful, and its properties as well known if not better than at the present day. Gold and silver is mentioned over 300 times in the bible and in those days many kinds of ornaments and useful articles were made of pure gold, which is a beautiful yellow colour. A cubic foot of gold weighs more than half a ton, or 1,203 $\frac{89}{100}$ lbs. There is only one metal that is of greater density

than gold, namely, platinum, the specific gravity of which is 20·85. The specific gravity of gold can be made up to 19·40 by rolling or hammering.

FINE GOLD.

The term fine gold, means pure gold, but jewellers and traders often use the term fine gold when speaking of wares over 12 carat ; the reason for this is that jewellery, more especially such as is worn by ladies, is principally made now to imitate pure gold in beauty and colour, though the standard in many cases may not be more than from 10 to 15 carat. The fine colour is produced by a process which takes out the alloy from the surface leaving only pure gold to be seen, but it is so thin that the first time it comes in contact with even a fine wash leather the beauty will all disappear. Electro-plated and gilt articles have the same appearance by a thin coating of gold being put on. "Frosted" silver is dealt with in the same way. All kinds of silver articles and coins have a beautiful white appearance when new, they are boiled and burnished, and nothing but pure silver can be seen on the surface, but it soon disappears when it comes to be worn.

ASSAYING AND HALL-MARKING AT CHESTER ASSAY OFFICE.

The following particulars are from the "Journal of the Society of Chemical Industry," Sept. 30, 1889, by W. F. Lowe, F.I.C., F.C.S., public analyst for the City of Chester and four counties :

The process of assay by cupellation is the removal, by the aid of fused lead oxide, of all the constituents of an alloy with the exception of the so-called noble metals, gold and silver (and also platinum, if present). It is carried out by the addition of a suitable quantity of lead to the alloy, which is then placed on a hot bone-ash cupel, and heated in a current of air. The lead and also the other metals, with the exception of the gold and silver, oxidise, and the fused lead oxide takes up the other oxides as fast as they form and carries them down into the porous cupel until a button of pure gold or silver only is left. The process of cupellation is one of the oldest metallurgical operations there is any record of, for it is frequently mentioned in the old testament as the "refiner's fire." There is no doubt that the Romans carried out the process on a large scale.

The furnace used for cupellation is a muffle furnace, and after having worked with many forms, we find that no furnaces are to be compared, both for accuracy in assaying and ease and comfort in working, with

Fletcher's gas furnace. At Chester Assay Office a pair of these furnaces have been used for the last eight years and have been found most satisfactory.

The muffles used have only a small hole at the end, moderately high up.

Muffles with slits in the sides are decidedly objectionable, as they crack much sooner, and silver assays done in them are not so uniform. After a muffle has been in use for some time it frequently cracks along the bottom, and this, if not noticed, will often cause trouble, as the assays which are in the cupels just over the crack leap or spurt, and are thus rendered worthless.

For Silver assay, 10 grains are taken. The balances employed are made by Oertling, and will indicate distinctly $\frac{1}{1200}$ of a grain. The weighed assay is placed in a little bag of lead, made by taking very thin sheet lead (laminated lead) cut to the proper weight (the piece then measures about $3\frac{1}{2}$ by $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.) and rolling this up into a little conical bag like the bags used by grocers for holding moist sugar, &c. Needless to say each batch of lead is assayed for silver. The commercial laminated lead is quite pure enough for this purpose, as on an average the amount used for each assay contains only sufficient silver to raise the amount by 0.08 per thousand. The bags are kept on a shelf beside the balance. After being placed in the lead bag, the latter is folded up and is squeezed up into a very little ball, which is then ready for cupelling.

The pure silver for checks as also the pure gold for the same purpose, we always prepare ourselves, and before using them compare them with assays from the trial plates supplied by the mint. The assays after being removed from the furnace are squeezed with a pair of pliers, brushed, and then weighed by the assay master. *If found correct, he gives orders for the article from which the assay was taken to be stamped with the hall-mark, the date letter, and the standard mark; but if the assay is not up to the required standard it is put on one side and tested again twice more next day, and if still not right, the goods are broken and returned to the manufacturer.*

Gold.—The oldest method of testing the quality of gold was by the touch. This consisted in making a streak on a black stone, called a touchstone, and comparing it with a streak from a piece of gold of known composition called a touch needle. Erckern says that by this method a difference of half a carat can be detected, but it has been shown that a

difference of two or three carats very frequently cannot be detected even by those accustomed to use the touchstone.

The process for the bullion assay of gold depends on the solubility of silver and the insolubility of gold in nitric acid. It was formerly considered that 3 parts of silver should be added to 1 part of gold in order that all the silver might be removed, and hence the process received the name of inquartation. It is now found that gold will part on the addition of two parts of silver to one of gold but in assaying it is usual to obtain the alloy in the proportion $2\frac{1}{2}$ parts of silver to 1 of gold. At Chester the unit weight employed is 5 grains; the writer would prefer to employ a larger quantity, but the difficulty lies in being able to obtain a sufficient amount for assay without damaging the articles sent to be hall-marked. Many of these such as rings, brooches, chains, &c., are very small. In taking the assay from the articles, if they are large enough they are scraped with a steel scraper, and if the article is made in several portions a separate assay is made from each part. The smaller articles have small pieces cut off, as they are sent up unfinished. Not less than two assays are made if possible from a single lot of work, and where there is a large number of articles in one lot, a dozen or more assays may be made from it. The weighed assay is placed in what is called a silver lead, that is a small conical bag of lead into which has been weighed the requisite amount of fine silver to form an alloy of $2\frac{1}{2}$ parts of silver to one part of gold. When a batch of 30 assays is ready they are each squeezed up to the size of a small bullet, and cupelled (that is put in the furnace and refined). The buttons are taken from the cupel with a pair of pliers, squeezed, and brushed with a fine wire brush, then flattened on an anvil kept bright and polished, and are then rolled out into a little strip about three inches long. Each assay, after rolling, is placed on a tray of wire gauze over a large, solid-flame Fletcher burner, and in this way the whole batch of 30 are annealed at one time. After the strips are cool they are rolled up into little coils called cornets, and are then ready for parting. The parting apparatus (which was designed by the writer), consists of a porcelain basin $8\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter, having a capacity of 50 oz.; a porcelain cover perforated with 30 holes, each hole being numbered with black enamel; and a number of glass tubes. The tubes are made to slip loosely through the holes in the cover; in this basin the cornets (or assays) are boiled in strong nitric acid over one of Fletcher's radial burners. When they have boiled for 15 or 20 minutes and the action of the acid has ceased, the

whole 30 assays are transferred to another basin of stronger acid, and are boiled briskly for half an hour ; they are then taken out and dipped into distilled water and allowed to drain ; after this they are annealed, or tempered in the muffle, when the assays are ready to weigh.

HALL-MARKS ON GOLD AND SILVER PLATE.

This work contains full and complete particulars on the subject of Hall-Marks and Date-Letters in England, Ireland, and Scotland, as per Acts of Parliament now in force. The public are greatly indebted to the Goldsmiths' Companies for the effectual protection rendered by their vigilance against the frauds which prevail in this enlightened age. There are no other articles in the manufacture of which such great frauds can be committed as in the jewellery trade. More than 700 years ago it was found necessary by the honest workers in precious metals to form themselves into a company or guild, to protect their trade against fraudulent workers, by allowing their work to be publicly or officially examined and marked accordingly. The Goldsmiths' Company of London was very strong in the year 1267, for, says Herbert's "*History of the London Livery Companies*," a great battle was fought between goldsmiths and tailors, 500 on each side, of whom some were killed, others wounded, the dead being thrown into the Thames; some of the ringleaders were caught and hanged.

But it was not until the year 1300 that the Company was incorporated by charter, and established on a firm basis. From that time till now the Goldsmiths' Companies have rendered good service to their country, especially to the trade, but they have failed to enlighten the public generally as to which are the real Hall-Marks. We attribute this to the law allowing somewhat similar marks to be stamped on inferior metals.

It is our intention, by the aid of this pamphlet and other means we have in view, to make *known*, far and wide, what the proper Hall-Marks are. At present there are seven assay offices, viz., London, Birmingham, Chester, Sheffield, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Dublin. Formerly there were twelve, but York, Exeter, Bristol, Norwich, and Newcastle-on-Tyne, have been closed, probably on account of the trade being transferred to other centres, as Birmingham, Coventry, and London.

YORK has more than once been an assay town. The office there was first established about the year 1423, but made very little progress.

The five assay offices, now extinct, were incorporated about the year 1700. The Hall-Mark at York was five lions on a cross; the standard mark a leopard's head.

EXETER Hall-Mark was a castle with three towers. Only silver goods and 22-carat wedding rings were marked here. There are traces of silver communion cups, and spoons, in different parts of England which bear the old Exeter mark, viz., a Roman capital letter X crowned, and dated for the most part 1570 to 1580. For full particulars of old English plate see Mr. Cripps' work, published by John Murray, or Mr. Chaffer's work on the same subject. The names of these two gentlemen will be handed down to posterity with credit and honour, by jewellers and others, for the information they have given on old English plate.

BRISTOL never selected a Hall-Mark, as it did not avail itself of the privilege granted.

NORWICH.—An assay master was appointed at this office for a short time only. The Hall-Mark was the leopard's head, and at one period a castle and lion was the Hall Mark.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—In the time of Henry III, more than 600 years ago, assayers were appointed in Newcastle, but very little business was done and it soon dwindled away. On the 24th of June, in 1702, a company was formed (by permission from Parliament); the Hall-Mark was three castles, and the standard mark for silver besides the lion was a leopard's head crowned. At one period the leopard's head was used uncrowned.

LONDON.

In the year 1800, the leopard's head crowned was introduced as the Government mark for both gold and silver. The standard of gold was then 22-carat, and the silver same as at present (925). The annual date-letter was first used about the year 1436. but no regular record is to be found until the reign of Elizabeth in 1558. Of all the marks this is the most interesting, as it denotes the year in which the article was made. In the year 1545 another mark was added, called the standard mark, viz., the lion-passant (or the king's lion), which was stamped on both gold and silver, the leopard's head being still continued as the Hall-Mark. On the 25th of March, 1697, a new standard of silver was adopted, called Britannia, this being



959, instead of 925; the standard-mark of this silver is a figure of Britannia, and the Hall-Mark a lion's head erased. This quality of silver has not proved to be durable, and on the 1st of June, 1720, the old standard of silver (925, same as now) again became law, the marks of which were at that



period the leopard's head crowned for the Hall-Mark, and for the standard mark the lion passant. The Act of March 25th, 1697, has not been repealed, is but seldom or ever used, except on special occasions; in every case it is distinguished by its own mark.

DUTY MARK.—This mark was the sovereign's head, which denotes the payment of duty; it was in force from December 1st, 1784, to April 30th, 1890.

In the year 1798, 18-carat gold was introduced, with the figures 18 and a crown for the standard mark.

In 1823, the Hall-Mark was somewhat altered, the crown was taken from the head of the leopard. The present Hall-Mark at London is a leopard's head without a crown, sometimes called the cat's head. We are sorry to say that as a rule this mark is indistinct, in many cases nothing but his ears can be distinguished.



In 1844, the standard mark for 22-carat gold was changed from the lion passant to a crown and the figures 22.

In the year 1854, 15, 12, and 9-carats gold was authorised to be stamped at each Hall in the United Kingdom. In England the standard mark for 15-carat gold is 15·625, the mark for 12-carat gold is 12·5, and the mark for 9-carat gold is 9·375. *Deputy Warden, W. ROBINSON, Esq.*

SCOTLAND.

EDINBURGH.—For 22-carat gold, the thistle is the standard mark, with the figures 22. For 18-carat gold, the thistle and the figures 18, but without the crown.



For 15, 12, and 9-carats, same as at London, omitting the decimal figures



The thistle is also the standard mark for silver at this office. Edinburgh Hall-Mark is a castle. *Assay Master, A. POLLOCK, Esq.*

GLASGOW.—The Hall-Mark at this office is a tree with a bird on the top and a bell on one of the branches with a fish across the trunk.



The standard mark for 22 and 18-carats gold is a lion rampant, with the figures 22 and 18 respectively. The lion rampant is also the standard mark for silver. The three lower standards of gold are denoted



by the lion rampant, with the figures 15, 12, and 9 as the quality marks. *Assay Master, JAS. BLACK, Esq.*

IRELAND.

DUBLIN.—The Hall-Mark at this office is the figure of a woman in a sitting position, with her right arm stretched out, called Hibernia. The standard mark for 22-carat gold is a harp crowned and the figures 22. Dublin is the only place that has the privilege of marking 20-carat



gold articles; the standard mark for this quality is a plume of three feathers and the figures 20. Gold of 18-carat is marked with a unicorn's head and the figures 18; the standard marks for 15, 12, and 9-carat gold are the same as at London. The standard mark for silver is a harp crowned. *Assay Master, S. W. LE BASS, Esq.*

SHEFFIELD.

Sheffield and Birmingham offices are twins, established in 1773, For several years a large and increasing business has been done at this office, consisting chiefly of heavy silver plate, such as waiters, centre pieces, tea & coffee services, knives, forks, spoons, &c. The assay master at this office was the first to introduce gas furnaces for the purpose of refining gold and silver. They are well constructed, neat and handy; a decided improvement on the old charcoal furnaces. The Hall-Mark is a crown,



Only silver goods are assayed here; the office is open for receiving goods on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 9 to 10 a.m. Goods are delivered to the manufacturers between 5 and 6 p.m.

Articles not exceeding 10 dwts. each in weight are charged 3d. per doz. All other wares $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per ounce.

Assay Master, ARNOLD J. WATSON, Esq.

CHESTER.

It is stated upon very good authority that Chester was an Assay town at a very early period. We have had the privilege of inspecting an old minute book which dates back to 1573, and in which there are entries respecting the assay of gold and silver wares, and also for regulating the trade of the Goldsmiths, see "Old English Plate," by Cripps. Chester, together with other provincial assay offices, was re-established by Act of Parliament in 1701.



Since that date a considerable amount of gold and silver has been Hall-marked at this place. Watch cases are received here for assay from Liverpool and Coventry, and plate and jewellery from various places. As a rule articles, if correct, are assayed, marked, and returned the same day as they are received.

The original Hall-mark at Chester was the Arms of the City. Three lions ramp., dim., impaled with 3 garbes dim.; used since the year 1701 till about the year 1784. Since that date the Hall-mark has been a sword erect between three wheatsheaves. This office is neat and trim, and well arranged for carrying on its business in an expeditious manner, W. F. Lowe, F.I.C., F.C.S., who is connected with this office has written a very interesting paper on "Assaying and Hall-marking at the Chester assay office," extracts of which will be found in another part of this work.



Assay Master, JAS. F. LOWE, Esq., B.A.

BIRMINGHAM.

This office was established in 1773, the Hall-mark is an Anchor, and the standard marks for both gold and silver are the same as those used at London. This is the largest office of all the seven, and more goods are assayed and stamped at this place than at all the other provincial towns put together. In order to meet the requirements of the rapid increase of business, the offices here, which were built in 1877, have been enlarged and fitted recently with all the requirements of a first-class establishment,



including electric light. It is replete with cooking, dining, and lavatory rooms, and no one is allowed to leave the premises until all the punches are in their proper place and locked under three keys, which are taken charge of by the assay master and two of the wardens. Mr W. Westwood the assay master has been connected with the office for 54 years; his father, the late assay master, was also 54 years in the office; Mr H. Westwood, one of the guardians, has been for 30 years connected with the place; whilst Mr A. Westwood, son of the latter, takes an active part in the refining room. In each department the work is carried on systematically by a staff of well-trained hands. Method is absolutely necessary in an office of this kind, in order to keep the different assays in their proper places.

The Guardians connected with this office are always on the alert, and no expense is spared to put down fraud and protect the honour of the trade.

MAKER'S MARK.

Anyone wishing to have goods Hall-marked in his own name, either manufacturer or merchant, must send to the assay office a punch with the initial letters of his name upon it; he will have to sign the name register book, and give the address of his residence and place of business; the mark of the punch having been fixed, he is then at liberty to send goods to be Hall-marked. All goods must be stamped with the maker's initials before leaving the manufactory, and the stamp or punch must correspond with the one registered at the assay office. Sometimes makers are allowed other small marks, such as a cross or star which has reference to the workman and is of no meaning only to the maker. No other marks are allowed to be stamped by the maker.



PENALTIES RELATING TO FALSE MARKS.

Every dealer who shall sell, exchange, or expose for sale, any ware of gold, or silver, having thereupon any forged or counterfeit mark, or any mark which shall have been transposed or removed, is made liable for every such ware to a penalty of ten pounds. A penalty of five pounds for every offence is imposed on every dealer who shall fraudulently erase, obliterate, or deface any mark of the several companies of goldsmiths, from any ware.

Every officer of the several Halls, who shall mark as standard any ware worse than standard, is made liable to a penalty of twenty pounds.

PRICES CHARGED FOR ASSAYING AND MARKING
GOLD AND SILVER PLATE.

LONDON.

SILVER WARES weighing 5 ozs. each and upwards, and spoons and forks weighing 5 ozs. and upwards per dozen, one halfpenny per ounce.

Weighing less than 5 ozs. as under :

Badges - - -	4d. each	Dog Collars - - -	5d. each
Baskets - - -	3d. „	Egg Boilers - - -	5d. „
Basins or Boats - - -	3d. „	Grape Scissors - - -	3d. „
Blades or Prongs - - -	1d. „	Ink Stands - - -	5d. „
Bells - - -	3d. „	Napkin Rings - - -	1d. „
Boxes or Bottles - - -	3d. „	Pencil Cases - - -	1d. „
Butter Coolers - - -	4d. „	Pickle Forks - - -	1d. „
Butter Knives - - -	1d. „	Salt Sellers - - -	2d. „
Carriage Lamps - - -	1/- „	Thimbles - - -	3d. per dozen
Chains (every link) - - -	2d. „	Pipe Bands and Collars, 1d. each	
Coffee, Cocoa, or		Tea Pots - - -	5d. „
Shaving Pots - - -	5d. „	Toast Racks - - -	5d. „
Cruet Frames - - -	5d. „	Ferrules for Sticks and Umbrellas,	
Cruet Tops - - -	1d. „	1d. each, or $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz.	

BIRMINGHAM.

GOLD.—For each Chain or Watch Case 5d., for each Locket, Bracelet, or Necklet-Pendant, 2d., for each doz. Studs, or Links, or Rings, 3d., for other Wares, each 1d.

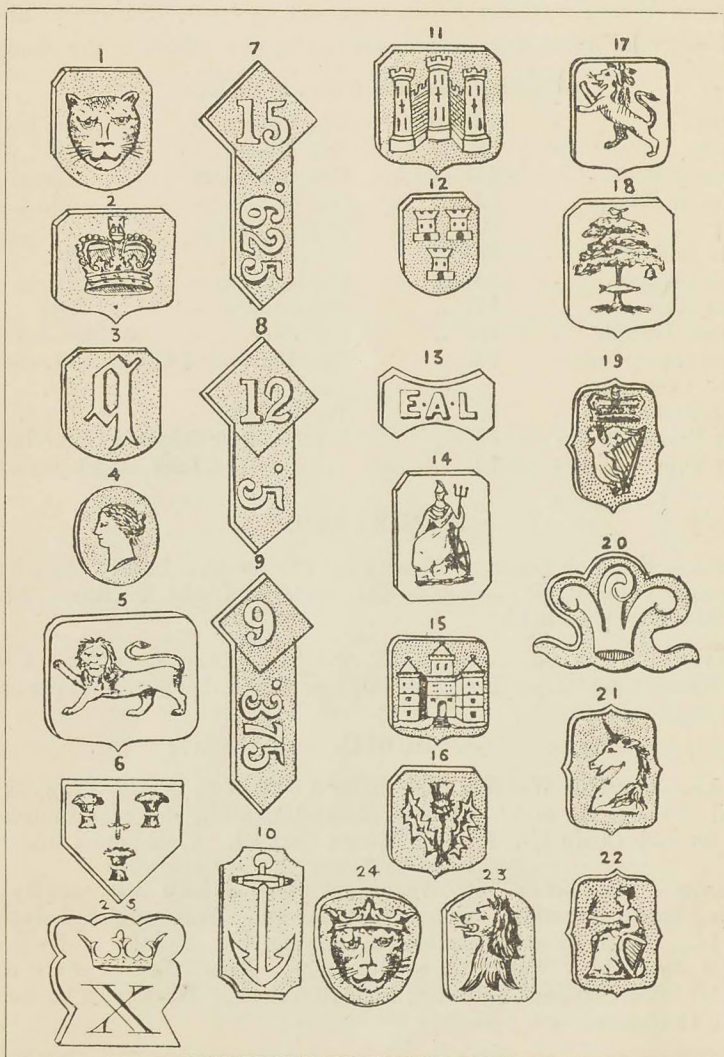
SILVER.—Wares not exceeding in weight 5 dwts. each (excepting Watch Pendants) 3d. per doz., Chains 1d. per oz., other wares $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz.

DUBLIN.

GOLD.—For each Wedding Ring under 6 dwts. 1d., Fancy Ring 2d., Medal or Badge 4d. each, a Pair of Sleeve Links 4d., for each Bracelet 6d., for each Chain 1/-, for each Watch Case 8d., Plate per oz. 6d.

SILVER —Plate per oz. 1d., Wares (not Plate) under 3 dwts. each 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz., under 30 articles extra for assaying 4d., Wares under 6 dwts. each 1d., under 12 articles extra for assaying 4d., Medals or Badges over 6 dwts. 2d., Watch Cases 6d. each. This office is open on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, from 10 o'clock. Work must be sent before 11 o'clock.

Every Goldsmiths' Company fixes its own charges, and the money realised goes to pay wages, rent, &c., of the office. No two offices are, perhaps, exactly alike in their charges, but the difference is very little. It would be difficult to calculate the amount of good these assay offices render to the public generally, and the cost is very small.

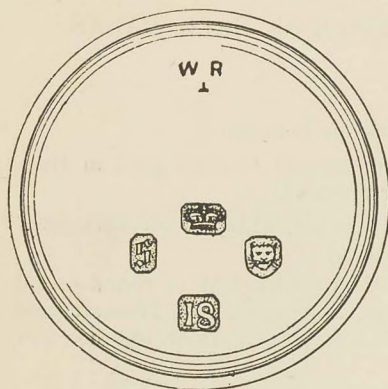


DESCRIPTION OF THE FOREGOING HALL MARKS.

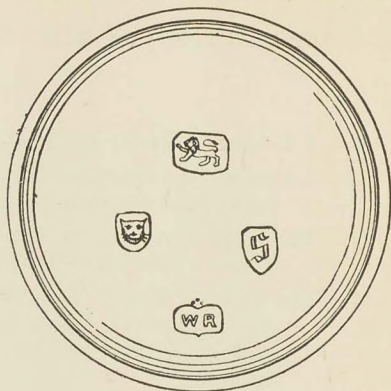
-
- 1.—A Leopard's Head ; the Hall-Mark for London.
 - 2.—A Crown ; the Standard Mark for 22 and 18-carat gold in England ; also the Hall-Mark for Sheffield.
 - 3.—The letter *q* represents the Date Letter, which is changed every year. (See list of Date Letters.)
 - 4.—The Queen's Head ; The Duty Mark, which will be found on all gold and silver wedding rings, also on 22 and 18-carat gold plate, and silver articles made before April, 1890, but not now in use.
 - 5.—The Lion passant, or Standard Mark for Silver in England.
 - 6.—A Sword between Three Sheaves ; Chester Hall-Mark.
 - 7, 8, & 9.—Standard Marks in England and Ireland for 15, 12, and 9-carat gold.
 - 10.—An Anchor ; Birmingham Hall-Mark.
 - 11.—A Castle with three Towers ; The Exeter Hall-Mark. (This office is now closed).
 - 12.—Three Castles ; Newcastle-upon-Tyne Hall-Mark. (Now closed).
 - 13.—The Maker's Initials ; These initials, or the initials of some other makers, will be found on all Hall-Marked articles of plate or jewellery.
 - 14.—Britannia ; The Standard Mark for the new Standard of silver. (Hardly ever used).
 - 15.—A Castle ; Edinburgh Hall-Mark.
 - 16.—A Thistle ; Edinburgh Standard Mark for 22 and 18-carat gold and also for silver.
 - 17.—The Lion rampant ; Standard Mark at Glasgow for both gold and silver.
 - 18.—Bird, Tree, Fish, and Bell ; Glasgow Hall-Mark.
 - 19.—Harp Crowned ; Standard Mark at Dublin for 22-carat gold, and silver.
 - 20.—Plume of Feathers ; ,, ,, 20 ,,
 - 21.—Unicorn's Head ; ,, ,, 18 ,,
 - 22.—Hibernia ; Dublin Hall-Mark.
 - 23.—Lion's Head erased ; Hall-Mark for Britannia Silver, from March, 1696, to June, 1720.
 - 24.—Leopard's Head crowned ; London Hall-Mark up to 1823.
 - 25.—Letter X and Crown. Exeter Hall-Mark from 1570 to 1640.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF WATCH CASES STAMPED AT LONDON, CHESTER & BIRMINGHAM.
LONDON.

HALL MARKS ON GOLD WATCHCASES.

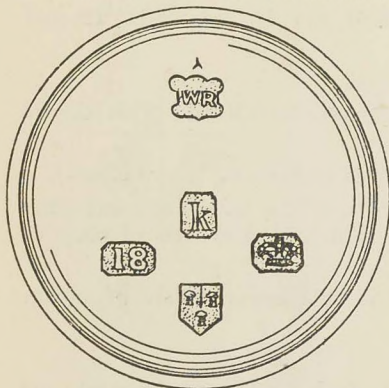


HALL MARKS ON SILVER WATCHCASES.

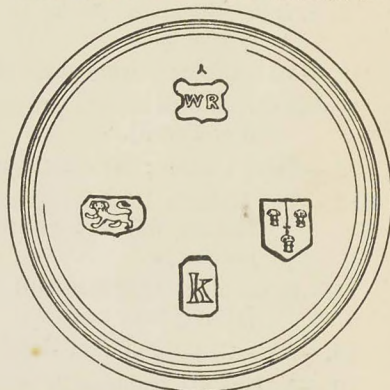


CHESTER.

HALL MARKS ON GOLD WATCHCASES.

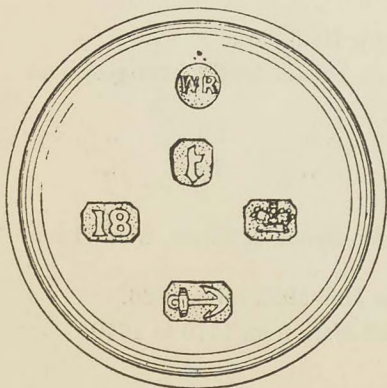


HALL MARKS ON SILVER WATCHCASES.

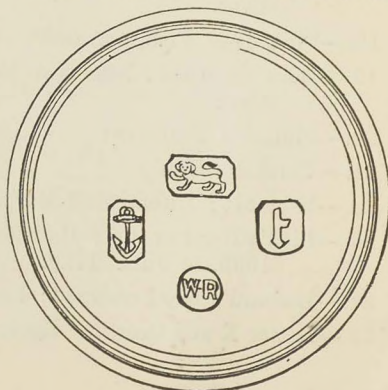


BIRMINGHAM.

HALL MARKS ON GOLD WATCHCASES.



HALL MARKS ON SILVER WATCHCASES.



Date Letters.

19

Hall Mark.

LIST OF DATE LETTERS

















































































At Goldsmiths' Hall, London.



Every year the letter is changed at this Office on the 3rd of May.

C QUEEN 1560-1	D ELIZ. 1561-2	E 1562-3	F 1563-4	G 1564-5	H 1565-6	I 1566-7	K 1567-8
L 1568-9	M 1569-0	N 1570-1	O 1571-2	P 1572-3	Q 1573-4	R 1574-5	S 1575-6
T 1576-7	U 1577-8	A 1578-9	B 1579-0	C 1580-1	D 1581-2	E 1582-3	F 1583-4
G 1584-5	H 1585-6	I 1586-7	K 1587-8	L 1588-9	M 1589-0	N 1590-1	O 1591-2
P 1592-3	Q 1593-4	R 1594-5	S 1595-6	T 1596-7	V 1597-8	X 1598-9	B 1599-0
A 1600-1	D 1601-2	E 1602-3	F JAMES I 1603-4	G 1604-5	H 1605-6	I 1606-7	K 1607-8
L 1608-9	M 1609-0	N 1610-1	O 1611-2	P 1612-3	Q 1613-4	R 1614-5	S 1615-6
T 1616-7	V 1617-8	a 1618-9	6 1619-0	C 1620-1	d 1621-2	e 1622-3	f 1623-4
g 1624-5	h CHAS. I. 1625-6	i 1626-7	k 1627-8	c 1628-9	m 1629-0	n 1630-1	o 1631-2
p 1632-3	q 1633-4	r 1634-5	s 1635-6	t 1636-7	v 1637-8	a 1638-9	B 1639-0














































































LONDON DATE LETTERS.

							
1640-1	1641-2	1642-3	1643-4	1644-5	1645-6	1646-7	1647-8
							
1648-9	COMMONWEALTH. 1649-0	1650-1	1651-2	1652-3	1653-4	1654-5	1655-6
							
1656-7	1657-8	1658-9	1659-0	CHAS II. 1660-1	1661-2	1662-3	1663-4
							
1664-5	1665-6	1666-7	1667-8	1668-9	1669-0	1670-1	1671-2
							
1672-3	1673-4	1674-5	1675-6	1676-7	1677-8	1678-9	1679-0
							
1680-1	1681-2	1682-3	1683-4	1684-5	JAMES II. 1685-6	1686-7	1687-8
							
WM. AND MARY. 1688-9	1689-0	1690-1	1691-2	1692-3	1693-4	1694-5	WM. III. 1695-6
							
1696-7	1696-7	1697-8	1698-9	1699-0	1700-1	1701-2	Q. ANNE 1702-3
							
1703-4	1704-5	1705-6	1706-7	1707-8	1708-9	1709-0	1710-1
							
1711-2	1712-3	1713-4	GEO. I. 1714-5	1715-6	1716-7	1717-8	1718-9








The figure Britannia was the Standard-mark for Silver from March, 1697, to June, 1720 ; and the Hall-mark for Silver during the same period was a lion's head separated from the body.

LONDON DATE LETTERS.

							 GEO. II. 1726-7
1719-0	1720-1	1721-2	1722-3	1723-4	1724-5	1725-6	
							
1727-8	1728-9	1729-0	1730-1	1731-2	1732-3	1733-4	1734-5
							
1735-6	1736-7	1737-8	1738-9	1739-0	1740-1	1741-2	1742-3
							
1743-4	1744-5	1745-6	1746-7	1747-8	1748-9	1749-0	1750-1
							
1751-2	1752-3	1753-4	1754-5	1755-6	1756-7	1757-8	1758-9
							 GEO. III. 1759-0
1759-0	1760-1	1761-2	1762-3	1763-4	1764-5	1765-6	1766-7
							
1767-8	1768-9	1769-0	1770-1	1771-2	1772-3	1773-4	1774-5
							
1775-6	1776-7	1777-8	1778-9	1779-0	1780-1	1781-2	1782-3
							
1783-4	1784-5	1785-6	1786-7	1787-8	1788-9	1789-0	1790-1
							
1791-2	1792-3	1793-4	1794-5	1795-6			

Specimens of Shields used with the Date-letters at the Goldsmiths' Hall,
London, from 1796-7 to 1895-6.

				
1796-7 1815-6	1816-7 1835-6	1836-7 1855-6	1856-7 1875-6	1876-7 1895-6

Up to 1822 the Standard Mark for 22-carat Gold was the Lion passant,
same as the Silver Mark.

1796-7 A	1797-8 B	1798-9 C	1799-0 D	1800-1 E	1801-2 F	1802-3 G
1803-4 H	1804-5 I	1805-6 K	1806-7 L	1807-8 M	1808-9 N	1809-0 O
1810-1 P	1811-2 Q	1812-3 R	1813-4 S	1814-5 T	1815-6 U	
1816-7 a	1817-8 b	1818-9 c	1819-0 d	1820-1 e	1821-2 f	1822-3 g
London Hall Mark  since 1823.	1823-4 h	1824-5 i	1825-6 k	1826-7 l	1827-8 m	1828-9 n
	1829-0 o	1830-1 p	1831-2 q	1832-3 r	1833-4 s	1834-5 t
1835-6 u	1836-7 A	1837-8 B	1838-9 C	1839-0 D	1840-1 E	1841-2 F
1842-3 G	1843-4 H	1844-5 I	1845-6 K	1846-7 L	1847-8 M	1848-9 N
1849-0 O	1850-1 P	1851-2 Q	1852-3 R	1853-4 S	1854-5 T	1855-6 U

1856-7	1857-8	1858-9	1859-0	1860-1	1861-2	1862-3
a	b	c	d	e	f	g
1863-4	1864-5	1865-6	1866-7	1867-8	1868-9	1869-0
h	i	k	l	m	n	o
1870-1	1871-2	1872-3	1873-4	1874-5	1875-6	
p	q	r	s	t	u	
1876-7	1877-8	1878-9	1879-0	1880-1	1881-2	1882-3
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1883-4	1884-5	1885-6	1886-7	1887-8	1888-9	1889-0
H	I	K	L	M	N	O
1890-1	1891-2	1892-3	1893-4	1894-5	1895-6	1896-7
P	Q	R	S	T	U	
1897-8	1898-9	1899-0	1900-1	1901-2	1902-3	1903-4

These blanks are left to be filled in when new cycle is chosen,

LIST OF DATE LETTERS

At the Assay Office, Birmingham,

FROM JUNE 24, 1799, TO 1899.

The Hall-mark at this Office is an anchor.



1799-0	1800-1	1801-2	1802-3	1803-4	1804-5	1805-6
a	b	c	d	e	f	g
1806-7	1807-8	1808-9	1809-0	1810-1	1811-2	1812-3
h	i	j	k	l	m	n
1813-4	1814-5	1815-6	1816-7	1817-8	1818-9	1819-0
o	p	q	r	s	t	u

1820-1	1821-2	1822-3	1823-4	1824-5	1825-6	1826-7
V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B
1827-8	1828-9	1829-0	1830-1	1831-2	1832-3	1833-4
C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1834-5	1835-6	1836-7	1837-8	1838-9	1839-0	1840-1
K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
1841-2	1842-3	1843-4	1844-5	1845-6	1846-7	1847-8
R	S	T	U	V	W	X
1848-9	1849-0	1850-1	1851-2	1852-3	1853-4	1854-5
Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E
1855-6	1856-7	1857-8	1858-9	1859-0	1860-1	1861-2
F	G	H	I	K	L	M
1862-3	1863-4	1864-5	1865-6	1866-7	1867-8	1868-9
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
1869-0	1870-1	1871-2	1872-3	1873-4	1874-5	1875-6
U	V	W	X	Y	Z	a
1876-7	1877-8	1878-9	1879-0	1880-1	1881-2	1882-3
b	c	d	e	f	g	h
1883-4	1884-5	1885-6	1886-7	1887-8	1888-9	1889-0
i	k	l	m	n	o	p
1890-1	1891-2	1892-3	1893-4	1894-5	1895-6	1896-7
q	r	s	t	u	v	w
1897-8	1898-9	1899-0	1900-1	1901-2	1902-3	1903-4
x	y	z				

LIST OF DATE LETTERS

At the Chester Assay Office,

FROM AUG. 5, 1797, TO 1902.

The Hall-mark is a dagger between three wheat sheaves.



1797-8	1798-9	1799-0	1800-1	1801-2	1802-3	1803-4
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1804-5	1805-6	1806-7	1807-8	1808-9	1809-0	1810-1
H	I	K	L	M	N	O
1811-2	1812-3	1813-4	1814-5	1815-6	1816-7	1817-8
P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
1818-9	1819-0	1820-1	1821-2	1822-3	1823-4	1824-5
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1825-6	1826-7	1827-8	1828-9	1829-0	1830-1	1831-2
H	I	K	L	M	N	O
1832-3	1833-4	1834-5	1835-6	1836-7	1837-8	1838-9
P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
1839-0	1840-1	1841-2	1842-3	1843-4	1844-5	1845-6
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1846-7	1847-8	1848-9	1849-0	1850-1	1851-2	1852-3
H	I	K	L	M	N	O
1853-4	1854-5	1855-6	1856-7	1857-8	1858-9	1859-0
P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
1860-1	1861-2	1862-3	1863-4	1864-5	1865-6	1866-7
W	X	Y	Z	a	b	c
1867-8	1868-9	1869-0	1870-1	1871-2	1872-3	1873-4
d	e	f	g	h	i	k
1874-5	1875-6	1876-7	1877-8	1878-9	1879-0	1880-1
l	m	n	o	p	q	r
1881-2	1882-3	1883-4	1884-5	1885-6	1886-7	1887-8
s	t	u	A	B	C	D

1888-9	1889-0	1890-1	1891-2	1892-3	1893-4	1894-5
E	F	G	H	I	K	L
1895-6	1896-7	1897-8	1898-9	1899-0	1900-1	1901-2
M	N	O	P	Q	R	S

LIST OF DATE LETTERS

At the Assay Office, Sheffield,

FROM JUNE 24, 1773, TO 1915.



The Hall-mark at this Office is a crown. Only silver goods are assayed here.

1773-4	1774-5	1775-6	1776-7	1777-8	1778-9	1779-0
G	J	N	K	H	S	A
1780-1	1781-2	1782-3	1783-4	1784-5	1785-6	1786-7
C	D	G	B	J	P	R
1787-8	1788-9	1789-0	1790-1	1791-2	1792-3	1793-4
L	W	M	I	P	U	O
1794-5	1795-6	1796-7	1897-8	1798-9	1799-0	1800-1
M	Q	Z	£	U	E	N
1801-2	1802-3	1803-4	1804-5	1805-6	1806-7	1807-8
H	M	F	G	B	A	S
1808-9	1809-0	1810-1	1811-2	1812-3	1813-4	1814-5
P	K	L	C	D	R	W
1815-6	1816-7	1817-8	1818-9	1819-0	1820-1	1821-2
O	T	X	I	V	Q	Y
		1822-3	1823-4			
		Z	U			
1824-5	1825-6	1826-7	1827-8	1828-9	1829-0	1830-1
a	b	c	d	e	f	g
1831-2	1832-3	1833-4	1834-5	1835-6	1836-7	1837-8
h	k	l	m	p	q	r

1838-9 S	1839-0 t	1840-1 u	1841-2 v	1842-3 X	1843-4 Z	1844-5 A
1845-6 B	1846-7 C	1847-8 D	1848-9 E	1849-0 F	1850-1 G	1851-2 H
1852-3 I	1853-4 K	1854-5 L	1855-6 M	1856-7 N	1857-8 O	1858-9 P
1859-0 R	1860-1 S	1861-2 T	1862-3 U	1863-4 V	1864-5 W	1865-6 X
1866-7 Y	1867-8 Z	1868-9 A	1869-0 B	1870-1 C	1871-2 D	1872-3 E
1873-4 F	1874-5 G	1875-6 H	1876-7 J	1877-8 K	1878-9 L	1879-0 M
1880-1 N	1881-2 O	1882-3 P	1883-4 Q	1884-5 R	1885-6 S	1886-7 T
1887-8 U	1888-9 V	1889-0 W	1890-1 X	1891-2 Y	1892-3 Z	1893-4 a
1894-5 b	1895-6 c	1896-7 d	1897-8 e	1898-9 f	1899-0 g	1900-1 h
1901-2 i	1902-3 k	1903-4 l	1904-5 m	1905-6 n	1906-7 o	1907-8 p
1908-9 q	1909-0 r	1910-1 s	1911-2 t	1912-3 u	1913-4 v	1914-5 w

LIST OF DATE LETTERS

At the Assay Office, Edinburgh,

FROM 1681, TO 1902-3.

The Hall-mark at this Office is a castle.

Specimens of Shields used at Edinburgh Office, from
1681 to 1881-2.

1681-2 1704-5	1705-6 1720-0	1730-1 1754-5	1755-6 1779-0	1780-1 1805-6	1806-7 1831-2	1832-3 1856-7	1857-8 1881-2

1681-2	1682-3	1683-4	1684-5	1685-6	1686-7	1687-8
a	b	c	d	e	f	g
1688-9	1689-0	1690-1	1691-2	1692-3	1693-4	1694-5
h	i	k	l	m	n	o
1695-6	1696-7	1697-8	1698-9	1699-0	1700-1	1701-2
p	q	r	s	t	u	w
1702-3	1703-4	1704-5	1705-6	1706-7	1707-8	1708-9
x	y	z	A	B	C	D
1709-0	1710-1	1711-2	1712-3	1713-4	1714-5	1715-6
E	F	G	H	I	K	L
1716-7	1717-8	1718-9	1719-0	1720-1	1721-2	1722-3
M	N	O	P	q	R	S
1723-4	1724-5	1725-6	1726-7	1727-8	1728-9	1729-0
T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1730-1	1731-2	1732-3	1733-4	1734-5	1735-6	1736-7
<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>G</i>
1737-8	1738-9	1739-0	1740-1	1741-2	1742-3	1743-4
<i>H</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>K</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>O</i>
1744-5	1745-6	1746-7	1747-8	1748-9	1749-0	1750-1
<i>P</i>	<i>Q</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>U</i>	<i>V</i>
1751-2	1752-3	1753-4	1754-5			
<i>W</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Z</i>			
1755-6	1756-7	1757-8	1758-9	1759-0	1760-1	1761-2
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1762-3	1763-4	1764-5	1765-6	1766-7	1767-8	1768-9
H	I	K	L	M	N	O
1769-0	1770-1	1771-2	1772-3	1773-4	1774-5	1775-6
P	Q	R	S	T	U	V

1776-7	1777-8	1778-9	1779-0			
£	D	Z	H			
1780-1	1781-2	1782-3	1783-4	1784-5	1785-6	1786-7
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1787-8	1788-9	1789-0	1790-1	1791-2	1792-3	1793-4
G	H	I	K	L	M	N
1794-5	1795-6	1796-7	1797-8	1798-9	1799-0	1800-1
O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
1801-2	1802-3	1803-4	1804-5	1805-6		
V	W	X	Y	Z		
1806-7	1807-8	1808-9	1809-0	1810-1	1811-2	1812-3
a	b	c	d	e	f	g
1813-4	1814-5	1815-6	1816-7	1817-8	1818-9	1819-0
h	i	j	k	l	m	n
1820-1	1821-2	1822-3	1823-4	1824-5	1825-6	1826-7
o	p	q	r	s	t	u
1827-8	1828-9	1829-0	1830-1	1831-2		
v	w	x	y	z		
1832-3	1833-4	1834-5	1835-6	1836-7	1837-8	1838-9
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1839-0	1840-1	1841-2	1842-3	1843-4	1844-5	1845-6
H	I	K	L	M	N	O
1846-7	1847-8	1848-9	1849-0	1850-1	1851-2	1852-3
P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
1853-4	1854-5	1855-6	1856-7			
W	X	D	Z			

1857-8	1858-9	1859-0	1860-1	1861-2	1862-3	1863-4
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1864-5	1865-6	1866-7	1867-8	1868-9	1869-0	1870-1
H	I	K	L	M	N	O
1871-2	1872-3	1873-4	1874-5	1875-6	1876-7	1877-8
P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
1878-9	1879-0	1880-1	1881-2			
W	X	Y	Z			
1882-3	1883-4	1884-5	1885-6	1886-7	1887-8	1888-9
a	b	c	d	e	f	g
1889-0	1890-1	1891-2	1892-3	1893-4	1894-5	1895-6
h	i	k	l	m	n	o
1896-7	1897-8	1898-9	1899-0	1900-1	1901-2	1902-3
p	q	r	s	t	u	v

LIST OF DATE LETTERS

At the Assay Office, Glasgow,

FROM JUNE 24, 1819, TO 1897.

The Hall-mark at this Office is a tree, fish and bell.



1819-0	1820-1	1821-2	1822-3	1823-4	1824-5	1825-6
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1826-7	1827-8	1828-9	1829-0	1830-1	1831-2	1832-3
H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1833-4	1834-5	1835-6	1836-7	1837-8	1838-9	1839-0
O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
1840-1	1841-2	1842-3	1843-4	1844-5		
V	W	X	Y	Z		
1845-6	1846-7	1847-8	1848-9	1849-0	1850-1	1851-2
A	B	C	D	E	F	G

1852-3	1853-4	1854-5	1855-6	1856-7	1857-8	1858-9
H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1859-0	1860-1	1861-2	1862-3	1863-4	1864-5	1865-6
O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
1866-7	1867-8	1868-9	1869-0	1870-1		
V	W	X	Y	Z		
1871-2	1872-3	1873-4	1874-5	1875-6	1876-7	1877-8
A	B	C	D	E	E	G
1878-9	1879-0	1880-1	1881-2	1882-3	1883-4	1884-5
H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1885-6	1886-7	1887-8	1888-9	1889-0	1890-1	1891-2
O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
1892-3	1893-4	1894-5	1895-6	1896-7	1897-8	1898-9
V	W	X	Y	Z		
1899-0	1900-1	1901-2	1902-3	1903-4	1904-5	1905-6

LIST OF DATE LETTERS

At the Assay Office, Dublin,







FROM MAY 1821, TO 1896.

The Hall-mark at this Office is the figure of Hibernia.



Specimen of Shields used at Dublin Hall, from 1721-2 to 1895-6.

Letter J omitted in first 5 cycles.

					
1721-2 1745-6	1746-7 1770-1	1771-2 1795-6	1796-7 1820-1	1821-2 1845-6	1871-2 1895-6

1821-2	1822-3	1823-4	1824-5	1825-6	1826-7	1827-8
A	B	C	D	e E	F	G
1828-9	1829-0	1830-1	1831-2	1832-3	1833-4	1834-5
H	I	K	L	M	N	O

1835-6 P	1836-7 Q	1837-8 R	1838-9 S	1839-0 T	1840-1 U	1841-2 V
1842-3 W	1843-4 X	1844-5 Y	1845-6 Z	1846-7 a	1847-8 b	1848-9 c
1849-0 d	1850-1 e	1851-2 f	1852-3 g	1853-4 h	1854-5 j	1855-6 k
1856-7 l	1857-8 m	1858-9 n	1859-0 o	1860-1 P	1861-2 Q	1862-3 r
1863-4 s	1864-5 t	1865-6 u	1866-7 v	1867-8 w	1868-9 x	1869-0 Y
1870-1 z	1871-2 A	1872-3 B	1873-4 C	1874-5 D	1875-6 E	1876-7 F
1877-8 G	1878-9 H	1879-0 I	1880-1 K	1881-2 L	1882-3 M	1883-4 N
1884-5 O	1885-6 P	1886-7 Q	1887-8 R	1888-9 S	1889-0 T	1890-1 U
1891-2 V	1892-3 W	1893-4 X	1894-5 Y	1895-6 Z	1896-7	1897-8
1898-9	1899-0	1900-1	1901-2	1902-3	1903-4	1904-5

LIST OF DATE LETTERS

At the Assay Office, Newcastle-on-Tyne,

FROM MAY 3, 1800, TO 1888.

The Hall-mark at this Office was three castles.

This Office is now closed.



1800-1 K	1801-2 L	1802-3 M	1803-4 N	1804-5 O	1805-6 P	1806-7 Q
1807-8 R	1808-9 S	1809-0 T	1810-1 U	1811-2 W	1812-3 X	1813-4 Y
1814-5 Z	1815-6 A	1816-7 B	1817-8 C	1818-9 D	1819-0 E	1820-1 F
1821-2 G	1822-3 H	1823-4 I	1824-5 K	1825-6 L	1826-7 M	1827-8 N

1828-9 O	1829-0 P	1830-1 Q	1831-2 R	1832-3 S	1833-4 T	1834-5 U
1835-6 W	1836-7 X	1837-8 Y	1838-9 Z	1839-0 A	1840-1 B	1841-2 C
1842-3 D	1843-4 E	1844-5 F	1845-6 G	1846-7 H	1847-8 I	1848-9 J
1849-0 K	1850-1 L	1851-2 M	1852-3 N	1853-4 O	1854-5 P	1855-6 Q
1856-7 R	1857-8 S	1858-9 T	1859-0 U	1860-1 W	1861-2 X	1862-3 Y
1863-4 Z	1864-5 a	1865-6 b	1866-7 c	1867-8 d	1868-9 e	1869-0 f
1870-1 g	1871-2 h	1872-3 i	1873-4 k	1874-5 l	1875-6 m	1876-7 n
1877-8 o	1878-9 p	1879-0 q	1880-1 r	1881-2 s	1882-3 t	1883-4 u
1884-5 w	1885-6 x	1886-7 y	1887-8 z			

LIST OF DATE LETTERS

At the Exeter Assay Office,

FROM AUGUST 1817 TO 1877.

The Hall-mark at this Office was a castle with three towers.

This Office has now become extinct.



1817-8 a	1818-9 b	1819-0 c	1820-1 d	1821-2 e	1822-3 f	1823-4 g
1824-5 h	1825-6 i	1826-7 k	1827-8 l	1828-9 m	1829-0 n	1830-1 o
1831-2 p	1832-3 q	1833-4 r	1834-5 s	1835-6 t	1836-7 u	
1837-8 A	1838-9 B	1839-0 C	1840-1 D	1841-2 E	1842-3 F	1843-4 G
1844-5 H	1845-6 I	1846-7 K	1847-8 L	1848-9 M	1849-0 N	1850-1 O

1851-2	1852-3	1853-4	1854-5	1855-6	1856-7	
P	Q	R	S	T	U	
1857-8	1858-9	1859-0	1860-1	1861-2	1862-3	1863-4
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1864-5	1865-6	1866-7	1867-8	1868-9	1869-0	1870-1
H	I	K	L	M	N	O
1871-2	1872-3	1873-4	1874-5	1875-6	1876-7	
P	Q	R	S	T	U	

LIST OF DATE LETTERS

At York Office,

FROM 1812 TO 1857.

The Hall-mark at this Office was five lions on a cross, the leopard's head being also impressed as an additional mark.
This Assay Office has now become extinct.

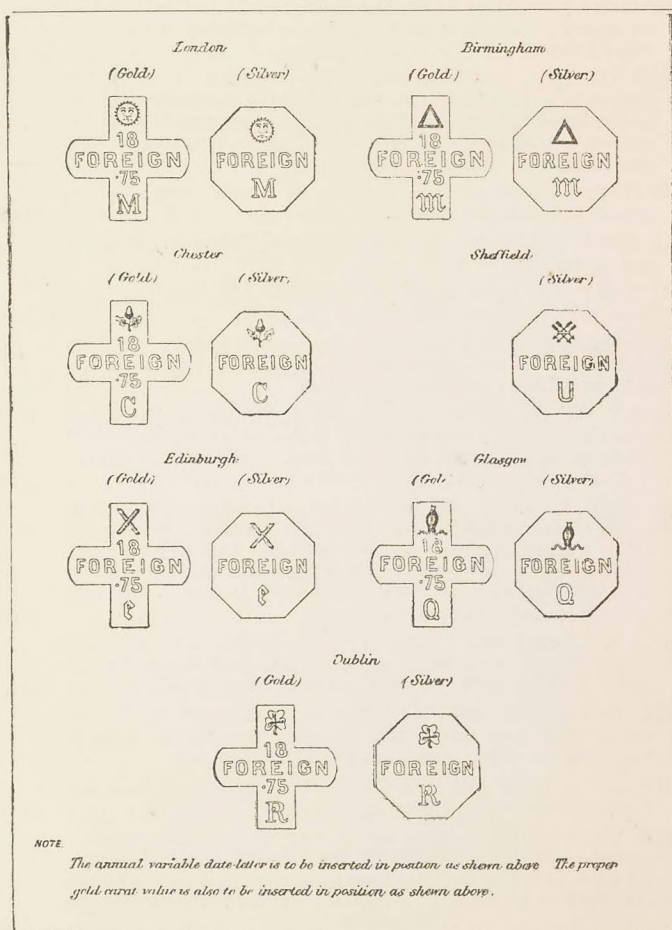


1812-3	1813-4	1814-5	1815-6	1816-7	1817-8	1818-9
a	b	c	d	e	f	g
1819-0	1820-1	1821-2	1822-3	1823-4	1824-5	1825-6
h	i	k	l	m	n	o
1826-7	1827-8	1828-9	1829-0	1830-1	1831-2	1832-3
p	q	r	s	t	u	v
1833-4	1834-5	1835-6	1836-7			
w	x	y	z			
1837-8	1838-9	1839-0	1840-1	1841-2	1842-3	1843-4
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1844-5	1845-6	1846-7	1847-8	1848-9	1849-0	1850-1
H	I	K	L	M	N	O
1851-2	1852-3	1853-4	1854-5	1855-6	1856-7	
P	Q	R	S	T	U	

MARKS ON FOREIGN WATCH CASES.

All gold and silver watch cases imported into this country for sale must be tested and stamped with a special punch, which bears altogether a different mark from the English mark as follows :—

- London mark (Phœbus) or full moon with rays around it.
- Birmingham mark (Equilateral Triangle).
- Chester mark (Acorn and two Leaves).
- Sheffield mark (Crossed Arrows).
- Edinburgh mark (St. Andrew's Cross).
- Glasgow mark (Bishop's Mitre).
- Dublin mark (Shamrock).



Since this Act was passed, probably on account of the marks being so much different from the English lion and the other marks for gold standards, scarcely any foreign watch cases have been marked in England, thus preventing the sale of foreign as British make, for which it was intended. They prefer now to mark them in their own country. On foreign silver watch cases you will find two bears standing on their hind legs, and 0935; on gold cases 18K, 14K, 10K, &c.

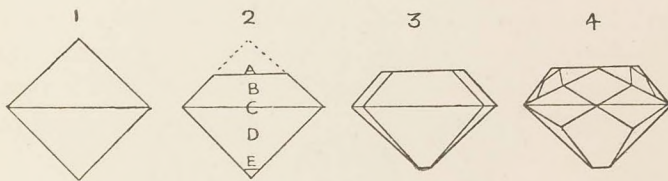
LIST OF LARGE DIAMONDS OF THE WORLD.

Revised by E. W. STREETER, Esq., F.R.G.S., M.A.I.

1. KOH-I-NOOR, belongs to the Queen, weight in rough state never known; when first known to us, 193 carats; it was cut down to 186 carats, and on its arrival in England was again cut to 106 carats. This stone was valued before being re-cut here at £140,000
2. REGENT, or PITT, is amongst the jewels in the Museum in Paris; weight 136 $\frac{1}{2}$ carats, being reduced in cutting from 410, and has been estimated to be worth £480,000
3. BRAGANZA; belongs to the Portuguese State, but believed to be a white Topaz; in its rough state it weighed 1680, and it was valued at £5,644,800
4. STAR OF THE SOUTH, now in the possession of one of the Rajahs in India; this stone was sold in the rough for £35,000, and reduced by cutting from 254 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 125 carats at an expenditure of £500, and was sold for £80,000, inclusive of the mountings ———
5. ORLOFF, a lover's gift to Catherine of Russia, weighing 193 carats, and valued at £100,000
6. DU TOIT I., a beautiful South African Diamond, weighing 244 carats ———
7. DU TOIT II., found by Messrs. Stevens and Raath on July 21st, 1871, weighing in the rough 124 carats ———
8. REGENT OF PORTUGAL, in the Crown Jewels, found by a negro, who was rewarded by his freedom and a yearly pension of £50; weighing 215 carats ———
9. GREAT MOGUL, rose cut, supposed to be part of the rough Koh-i-noor, which was probably stolen either at the sack of Delhi or at the death of Radio Shah, weighing 280 carats, and valued at £420,000
10. MATTAM, for which was refused 150,000 Dollars, 2 large War Brigs complete with every necessary, besides a quantity of other warlike material, but the tempting bait was rejected. Mr. Streeter's son saw this stone at Borneo, and his opinion, with other experts, was that it was not a Diamond. Weight 367 carats, and valued at £269,378
11. NIZAM. Barbat tells us that the King of Golconda possesses a magnificent stone in the rough state, it is known by the name of the Nizam. Weighs 340 carats, and is valued at .. £200,000
12. THE MOON OF MOUNTAINS was purchased by Prince Orloff, and now set in the Imperial Sceptre of Russia; weighing 120 carats, and valued at 450,000 roubles.
13. THE MOUNTAIN OF SPLENDOUR, supposed to be in the Persian Regalia; weighing 135 carats, and valued at.. .. £145,800
14. THE ABBAS MIRZA, since its discovery in 1832, has probably remained in the possession of the Persian Kings, although we have failed to find any direct allusion to it in the public descriptions of the Shah's regalia; weighing 130 carats, and valued at £90,000
15. THE STEWART was found in South Africa by Mr. Spalding in 1872; weighing 288 $\frac{3}{4}$ carats in the rough, and was sold in India.
16. GREAT TABLE. Its whereabouts not known, but believed to be in some part of India. Weight 242 $\frac{1}{2}$ carats, for which Tavernier states Half-a-Million Rupees was asked.

17. JAGERFONTEIN, was found at the Cape in 1881, afterwards stolen by two thieves, who were captured. Weighing $209\frac{1}{4}$ carats
18. PORTER RHODES, the property of Mr. Porter Rhodes, found in 1880 in the Kimberley Mine, South Africa, weighing 150 carats. This stone has lately been cut, but is still the property of Mr. Rhodes, and is valued at £200,000
20. AUSTRIAN YELLOW. This stone has been in the House of Austria since the time of Maria Theresa. Weight $139\frac{1}{4}$ carats, and is valued at from 40 to £50,000
21. ENGLISH DRESDEN, belongs to the Gaikwar of Baroda; weighed in the rough $119\frac{1}{2}$ carats, weight now $76\frac{1}{2}$ carats, and valued at £40,000
22. CUMBERLAND, belongs to the Crown of Hanover, weighs 32 carats, and was originally purchased by the City of London for £10,000
23. THE GREAT SANCY. In consequence of the death of the owner, The Maharaja of Puttiala, this stone was for sale, but we understand it has lately been sold in India. It was once the property of Good Queen Bess. Weighs $53\frac{1}{2}$ carats, valued at £30,000
24. NASSAK. This stone was worn by the Marquis of Westminster, on the hilt of his sword, at the Drawing Room on Queen Victoria's Birthday immediately succeeding her accession to the British throne; in whose possession it still remains; the original weight was $89\frac{3}{4}$ carats, but now reduced to $78\frac{5}{8}$ carats, and is valued at £30,000
25. THE EUGENIE, sold by the Empress Eugenie to the Gaikwar of Baroda; weight 51 carats, and was sold for £15,000
26. THE HOLLAND, a Crown Jewel of the Netherlands, conical shape, weight 36 carats, and is valued at £10,368

NAMES OF DIFFERENT FORMS INTO WHICH DIAMONDS ARE CUT.



No. 1—Side view of a Rough Diamond.

No. 2—Side view of a Diamond partially cut.

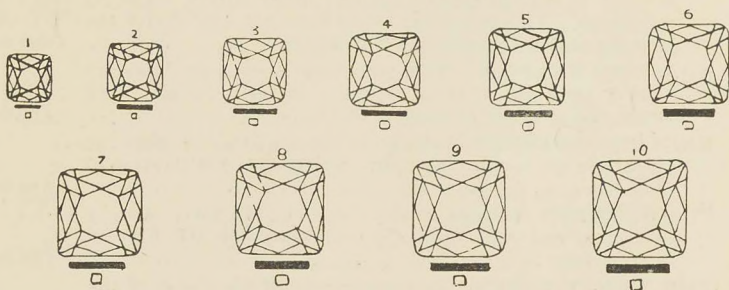
No. 3—Side view of a single-cut Diamond.

No. 4— „ „ double-cut „

In No. 2, *a* is the table, *b* the bezil, *c* the girdle, *d* pavilion, *e* culet. The double-cut Brilliant is the most common form at the present day, and the most expensive.

PROPER SIZE OF BRILLIANTS FROM 1 TO 10
CARAT IN WEIGHT.

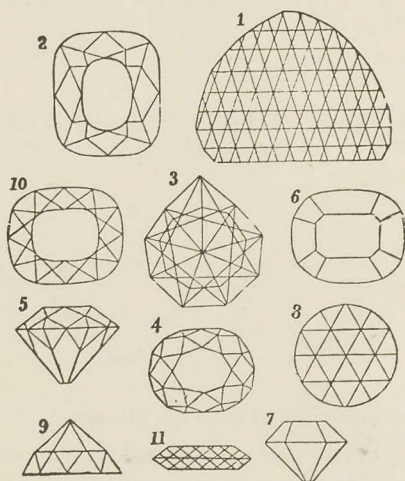
The black lines indicate the distance from the table to the culet and small squares the size of the culet.



There are 58 facets in a Brilliant: on the "Crown," or upper part, 33 facets; on the Pavilion, or under part, 25; the "Girdle, or edge bounding the widest part of the stone, divides the crown from the base, and is concealed, in part at least, by the mounting or setting.

In single-cut Brilliants, there are in all 38 facets. This is the cheap or old-fashioned style of cutting.

DESCRIPTION OF DIAMONDS CUT IN VARIOUS FORMS.



No. 1.—THE KOH-I-NOOR. This Diamond belongs to the Queen of England, it was presented to her Majesty, on the 3rd of June, 1850, by the East India Company. Its weight at that time was $186\frac{1}{16}$ carats. This gem was shown at the Exhibition of 1851, when several of the first scientific men of the day pronounced the cutting of the stone

incomplete, and its luster little better than rock-crystal. Prince Albert consulted Sir David Brewster, as to how it might be re-cut to the best advantage. After due consideration it was re-cut in London by Mr Coster, of Amsterdam, in the year 1852. The operation was completed in 38 days of 12 hours each, at a cost of £8000.

For full particulars of the wonderful history of this and other great Diamonds see Mr Streeter's book on "Great Diamonds of the World."

The value of the Koh-i-noor is said to be £140,000, and its present weight $106\frac{1}{8}$ carats.

No. 2.—THE PITT, OR REGENT. This Brilliant has a most interesting and remarkable history. It was found by a slave in the Partial mines, on the Kistna India, and, it is said, to secure his treasure he cut a hole in the calf of his leg and concealed it in the bandage. The slave escaped to the coast with his gem, and sold it to a skipper for a mere nothing on condition that the skipper carried him to a free country. The skipper sold it to Mr Thos. Pitts, governor of Fort St. George, for £1000. Mr Pitts sold it for £135,000 to the Regent of France, in the year 1717. The stone weighed 410 carats before it was cut. Great pains were taken in the cutting of this gem, and it was remarkably well done. It is the finest Brilliant in the world, and estimated to be worth £480,000, weight $136\frac{1}{2}$ carats.

No. 3.—THE GREAT SANCY. Here you have a side view of this peculiar shaped Diamond. The history of this stone is like itself, peculiar and mysterious. Where the stone is at present we are not able to say. Some few years ago it was on sale on account of the death of Maharaja of Puttiala, who owned it at the time when the Prince of Wales was in India. It weighs $53\frac{1}{2}$ carats, and is valued at £30,000.

No. 4.—Is a vertical view of a brilliant-cut Diamond.

No. 5.—Is a side view of a brilliant-cut Diamond.

Nos. 6 and 7.—Vertical and lateral appearance of the brilliant Diamond before being re-cut.

No. 8.—Vertical view of a rose-cut Diamond.

No. 9.—Side view of a rose-cut Diamond.

No. 10.—Vertical view of a brilliant-cut Diamond.

No. 11.—Side view of a table-cut Diamond.

CAUTION.—There is a way of falsifying Diamonds by joining an under part of some other common stone to an upper part of genuine Diamond, persons purchasing stones of large size need to be careful in this respect.

A MONSTER DIAMOND, which has been named “Jagersfontein Excelsior,” was recently found in the Orange Free State, South Africa, on July 2nd, 1893. A model of this diamond was sent to the editor of the Birmingham Daily Post by Mr Walter Lowe, a Birmingham man, now resident in South Africa. The diamond is the most perfect large stone ever seen, its weight is 971 carats, its colour is blue-white and almost perfect, except one black spot. It was found by a Kaffir, who handed it over to the manager, for which he has been given £150, a horse, saddle, and bridle. Its value of course cannot now be stated; if it turns out well in cutting, probably it will be worth half-a-million.

THE IMPERIAL DIAMOND.—Probably the diamond found at the Cape, in March, 1888, described in the above account, is now called the Imperial Diamond. It belongs to an Anglo-French Syndicate. It is said that this stone weighed in the rough 457 carats. It was cut in two, the largest of which weighs now 180 carats, and was on view at the Paris Exhibition in 1889, where it was much admired by the Prince of Wales and family, and many of the nobility. The Queen of Holland is said to have witnessed the cutting of the first facet, and it took eighteen months to bring it to its present state. Cut at Amsterdam, under the direction of three foremost lapidaries of the town. It was shown to the Queen of England before being exhibited at Paris, and the Prince of Wales, who was present, exclaimed, “This is an Imperial Diamond.” From that moment the unique stone has been called by that name.

In speaking of the weight of diamonds, $151\frac{1}{2}$ carats equal one ounce troy.

Mr. Jeffries, a diamond dealer and an authority on the subject, said, in 1750, “The fine diamond should be as clear as pure rock water, perfect in shape, and not only pure white, but lively, showing fire, as it is called. Any undecided tint of brown, yellow grey, or other colour is a positive blemish; but when the tint is decided, as blue, pink, or green (in which case the colours are called “fancy”) they are held in high estimation. Fine diamonds are still very valuable.”

HOW TO TEST A DIAMOND.

A file will have no effect on a diamond or other precious stones, but will on imitations.

A diamond is about three times heavier than rock crystal. Inexperienced persons cannot tell the difference by sight in every case. A diamond will cut glass, imitations will only scratch it.

A glazier's diamond will not cut a diamond, but any other stone it will cut.

If a diamond is rubbed briskly on cloth in a dark place it will reflect.

Paste diamonds are a mixture of violin glass and borax, and are very cheap—sold by the gross. They are a good imitation, but the real stone has more fire and a deeper hue.

Imitations are often made out of real stones as follows:—Real stones of a pale colour are not valuable, so the lapidary splits them up and introduces the colour desired, and then joins them again. By this plan the public get real stones at a cheap rate representing stones of a greater value. * * * Also real stones are often cemented on the top of glass, sent away from this and other countries to the diamond fields and sold there to merchants and travellers for real stones, and are brought back to England and France, and sold again to dealers for real stones, if they are not careful. They are called “Doublets.” Apply a file to the back part of these stones which will at once detect them.

Mr. A. H. Church, M.A., says:—“The value of the diamond increases in an increasing ratio with its weight up to stones of moderate size, beyond which no rule holds good. Assuming a first-water brilliant of 1 carat to be worth £20, then the following prices will be obtained :

For a Brilliant of 2 carats	...	£60 or	£30 per carat.
“ “ 3 “	...	£120 “	£40 “
“ “ 4 “	...	£220 “	£55 “
“ “ 5 “	...	£350 “	£70 “
“ “ 6 “	...	£600 “	£100 “
“ “ 7 “	...	£910 “	£130 “
“ “ 8 “	...	£1280 “	£160 “
“ “ 9 “	...	£1710 “	£190 “
“ “ 10 “	...	£2200 “	£220 “

Mr. Streeter's work on "Great Diamonds of the World," published by Messrs. G. Bell & Sons, London, is one of the most interesting books on this subject.

The colour of precious stones vary :—

BLACK.—Diamond, sapphire, garnet.

BLUE.—Diamond, sapphire, topaz, beryl.

WHITE.—Diamond, beryl, sapphire, spinel, rock-crystal, topaz, quartz.

RED.—Diamond, ruby, garnet.

BROWN.—Diamond, garnet, jacinth, quartz.

YELLOW.—Diamond, topaz, spinel, garnet, sapphire, tourmaline, quartz.

GREEN.—Diamond, emerald, sapphire, topaz, garnet.

PINK.—Diamond, ruby, beryl, topaz.

VIOLET.—Amethyst, sapphire, ruby, garnet.

ORANGE.—Diamond, garnet, topaz, ruby.

There are several kinds of precious stones not mentioned in the above list. Diamonds are found all colours. There is a slight difference between the specific gravity of the white and coloured diamonds ; white 3·500, yellow, 3·440.

Certain stones were also supposed to symbolise the Twelve Apostles : Peter is represented by the jasper ; Andrew, sapphire ; James, chalcedony ; John, emerald ; Philip, sardonyx ; Bartholomew, cornelian ; Matthew, chrysolite ; Thomas, beryl ; Thaddeus, chrysoprase ; James the Less, topaz ; Simeon, jacinth ; Matthias, amethyst.

In Revelation xxi., the above are given as the twelve foundation stones of the Heavenly Jerusalem, with the exception that sardius is substituted for cornelian.

The twelve stones mentioned in the Bible as worn by the High Priest are the following :—Sardius, topaz, carbuncle, emerald, sapphire, diamond, ligure, agate, amethyst, beryl, onyx, jasper.

GOLD STANDARDS.

There are six standards of Gold, and twelve standard marks, viz. :—

1st—The standard mark for 22 and 18-carat at London, Birmingham, and Chester, is a Crown.

2nd—At Edinburgh, a Thistle.

3rd—At Glasgow, a Lion Rampant.

4th—At Dublin, a Unicorn's Head, for 18-carat.

5th— „ a Harp crowned for 22-carat.

- 6th.—At Dublin, for 20-carat, a Plume of Three Feathers.
 7th.—The standard mark for 15-carat at London, Birmingham, Chester, and Dublin, is 15·625.
 8th.—At Edinburgh and Glasgow, 15.
 9th.—The standard mark for 12-carat gold at London, Birmingham, Chester, and Dublin, is 12·5.
 10th.—At Edinburgh and Glasgow, 12.
 11th.—The standard mark for 9-carat gold at London, Birmingham, Chester, and Dublin, is 9·375.
 12th.—At Edinburgh and Glasgow, 9.

SILVER STANDARDS.

There are Two Silver Standards, and Five Standard Marks, as follows :—

- 1st.—The ordinary standard mark for silver of 925 (which is equal to coin) assayed at London, Birmingham, Chester, or Sheffield, is the well-known Lion Passant.
 2nd.—If assayed at Edinburgh, the standard mark is a Thistle.
 3rd.—If assayed at Glasgow, a Lion Rampant.
 4th.—If assayed at Dublin, the Harp Crowned.
 5th.—The standard mark of Britannia Silver (959) at all the Halls is the figure of Britannia; this standard of silver is seldom called for.

STANDARDS OF GOLD & SILVER

In different Countries of the World.

In the following table 1000 stands for pure gold or silver.

COUNTRIES.	GOLD WARE.				SILVER WARE.	REMARKS.
Alsace & Lorraine..	920	..	840	..	750	950 .. 800 [export only.
France	920	..	840	..	750	950 .. 800 Lower than this is for
Austria	920	..	840	..	750 .. 580	950 .. 900 The Hall-Mk, Imper-
" .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	800 .. 750 ial Eagle, 2 necks
Geneva	750	..	..	..	800	.. Not Compulsory.
Basle	750	..	..	..	787 $\frac{1}{4}$	..
China	1000	..	..	..	..	Pure Gold.
Denmark	750	..	..	..	..	No Special Laws.
Belgium	800	..	750	..	900 .. 800	Not Compulsory.
Holland	916	..	833	..	750 .. 583	934 .. 800 Not Compulsory.
Egypt	750	..	..	..	900	..
Turkey	750	..	..	..	900	..
United States ..	750	..	583	..	416	No Special Laws.
Italy	900	..	750	..	500	..
" .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	950 .. 900
Spain	916 $\frac{2}{3}$	..	853 $\frac{1}{3}$	..	750	.. 916 $\frac{2}{3}$.. 750
Neufchatel ..	750	..	583	..	..	800 .. Not Compulsory.
Russia	850	..	750	..	583 $\frac{1}{3}$	.. 948 ..
Pays de Vaude ..	750	..	..	..	..	800 .. Not Compulsory.
Sweden	976	..	847 $\frac{2}{3}$	..	763 $\frac{1}{3}$	.. 826 $\frac{7}{8}$..
Norway	750	..	583 $\frac{1}{3}$	..	..	826 $\frac{1}{2}$..
Persia	758 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	125	..	..	No Special Laws.
Japan	958 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	750	..	..	..
Great Britain ..	9	..	12	..	15 .. 18 .. 20 & 22 carats gold, 959 & 925 Silver.	..

ITEMS WORTH KNOWING.

Watch Case Makers do not require a license, nor do dealers in gold and silver lace, wire, thread, or fringe of any kind.

Hall-Marked silver is equal to coin.

Gold articles of 22-carat are equal to gold coin.

It is compulsory in the United Kingdom for gold and silver watch cases, and plate for domestic use, to be assayed and Hall-Marked.

It is not compulsory for watch chains to be Hall-Marked, but the bulk of them are, especially plain patterns, because they sell much better when marked.

At London, Birmingham, and Chester, Hall-Marked Chains are stamped as follows:—On every link, on 18-carat gold, the figure 18 and a crown; on 15-carat, 15·625; on 12-carat, 12·5; on 9-carat, 9·375; on silver chains, the lion passant; also on one of the links of each chain the Hall-Mark and Date Letter is stamped.

Articles marked 9-c. or 10-c., &c., are not Hall-Marked; however, in some cases when accompanied with the maker's initials, the article may be relied upon by the trade, but the unskilled public must never put trust to any mark only the proper Hall-Mark.

The Standard Mark in France for Gold is the Head of a Greek Physician; Hall-Mark, Head of an Eagle, or Head of an Horse. The Hall-Mark for Silver in France is the Head of a Wild Boar, or a Crab.

The term carat is not an absolutely fixed or real weight for gold, but denotes the quality; when speaking of diamonds it is a real weight, 151½ make one English ounce, troy.

In a work of this kind, little or no information can be given as to the price of diamonds, watches, or jewellery, for only persons of long and varied experience can judge such things.

As the result of an exhaustive enquiry, just about 18 years' wear will reduce a sovereign below its point of legal currency. The standard weight of a sovereign is 123·27447 grains, and the least current weight 122·5 grains.

THE STANDARDS ARE GENERALLY EXPRESSED IN 1000ths.

See the following table, which gives also the highest Mint prices per ounce of Gold.

			£	s.	d.
$\frac{41\frac{3}{4}}{1000}$	Equal	1 Carat	0	3	$6\frac{1}{2}$
$\frac{125}{1000\frac{1}{2}}$	"	3 "	0	10	$7\frac{1}{2}$
$\frac{250}{1000}$	"	6 "	1	1	$2\frac{1}{4}$
$\frac{375}{1000}$	"	9 "	1	11	$10\frac{1}{2}$
$\frac{416\frac{2}{3}}{1000}$	"	10 "	1	15	$4\frac{3}{4}$
$\frac{500}{1000}$	"	12 "	2	2	$5\frac{3}{4}$
$\frac{583\frac{1}{3}}{1000}$	"	14 "	2	9	$6\frac{3}{4}$
$\frac{625}{1000}$	"	15 "	2	13	1
$\frac{750}{1000}$	"	18 "	3	3	$8\frac{1}{2}$
$\frac{833\frac{1}{3}}{1000}$	"	20 "	3	10	$9\frac{1}{2}$
$\frac{916\frac{2}{3}}{1000}$	"	22 "	3	17	$10\frac{1}{2}$
$\frac{958\frac{1}{3}}{1000}$	"	23 "	4	1	5
$\frac{1000}{1000}$	"	24 "	4	4	$11\frac{1}{2}$

GOLD BULLION.

Gold bullion for coinage is supplied to the Mint almost entirely by the Bank of England, the bank being bound by law to purchase, at the rate of £3 17s. 9d. an ounce, any gold bullion of the legal standard which the public may bring for sale. Private individuals are permitted to bring bullion to the Mint, and to receive back the full amount (at £3 17s. 10½d. an ounce) converted into coin, free of any charge for loss or manufacture; but as they are subject to considerable delay, all "importations" of bullion being converted into coin in the order in which they are brought to the Mint, the public practically prefer to sell their bullion to the bank, and receive its value without delay. The bank undertake to purchase the light gold from the public at the rate of £3 17s. 6½d. an ounce, a loss of 4d. an ounce to the seller as compared with the Mint value.

JEWELLERS' LICENCES.

Gold articles weighing not more than two pennyweights and silver not more than five pennyweights can be sold without licences; for gold under 2 oz. and silver under 30 oz. the charge is £2 6 0 per year; over that weight, and to pawnbrokers any weight, the charge is £5 15 0.

GUARDIANS AND WARDENS.

In connection with the Subject of Hall-Marking, &c., the following particulars relating to Guardians and Wardens will be of interest to readers of this work.

Birmingham and Sheffield Offices were both established at the same time, and are conducted on similar lines ; what is said of one will apply to the other in many respects. In 1889, Arnold T. Watson, Esq., Assay Master, Sheffield, wrote a pamphlet on the "History of Sheffield Assay Office;" a chart, published with the same, showing the fluctuation in the weight of silver assayed annually at Sheffield, is exceedingly interesting ; from Mr Watson's paper we learn that the first meeting of the Guardians of the Sheffield Company was held at the sign of "The George," on the 5th July, 1773, on which occasion the Right Honourable Thomas Earl of Effingham took the chair. There were also present : Walter Osborne, Esq., a Justice of the Peace, and 16 other gentlemen ; Mr Gilbert Dixon was elected the Clerk of the Company, and ordered to enter their acts, proceedings, and orders "in a Book." This is the Minute Book still in use by the present Law Clerk, W. B. Esam, Esq. The first Sheffield date letter is an old Text capital letter E—possibly the letter E was adopted out of compliment to the Earl of Effingham. The Guardians hold their meeting on the first Monday in July in every year, and at it any vacancies which may have occurred among the Guardians are to be filled by the vote of the Guardians present ; the complete number always to be 30, of which a certain proportion must be plate workers. To the Guardians is entrusted the duty of electing one or more able and skilful person or persons experienced in the assaying of silver to be the Assayer or Assayers, and to continue in that office for life ; and they are annually to appoint four Wardens for the ensuing year. This is a responsible office, and the Wardens are required to take an oath before a Justice of the Peace residing in the County where the assay office is established ; in this oath they undertake faithfully to discharge their duties, not to discover to any person any pattern, design, or invention of any plate brought to the office for assay. The office of the Assay Master is more responsible still, he is required to give a Bond to the Master of the Mint, with two sureties, in the penalty of £500, for the faithful discharge of his duties to all concerned, and that he will not either directly or indirectly be concerned in the buying or selling of silver bullion, or the manufacture of Wrought Plate.

ASSAY OFFICE, SHEFFIELD.

LIST OF GUARDIANS, AUGUST, 1893.

Earl Fitzwilliam, Lord Wharnccliffe	Venerable Archdeacon Blakeney
William Henry Greaves, Bagshawe	Sir Henry Edmund Watson
Francis Westby, Bagshawe	Herbert Hutton, John Newton
Michael Joseph Ellison	James William Harrison, Chas. Belk
Auston Nicholson	Alfred Nicholson, Sir Hy. Stephenson
His Grace the Duke of Norfolk	William Chesterman
James Henry Barber	Arnold Thomas Watson
Walter Thomas, William Spencer	John Yeomans Cowlishaw
Stanhope, M.P.	Thomas Watson Cadman
Charles Favell, Ebenezer Hall	Samuel Roberts, John Devinshire
Hy. Isaac Dixon, Thomas Bradbury	Ellis
Edwin Thomas Atkin	John Rodgers
William Greaves Blake	

ARNOLD T. WATSON, *Assay Master.*WM. B. ESAM, *Law Clerk.*

THE BENEFIT OF HALL-MARKING.

We consider the benefits of compulsory Hall-marking are manifold, and alike beneficial both to the trade and public; if there were no law to protect the Standard Marks of the precious metals, there would soon be no precious metals to protect, or very little, then the public would go in for cheap goods, and the sale of genuine articles would gradually dwindle away.

Mr Watson in his paper above referred to says: "Throughout this paper I have carefully avoided going into the question of retention or abolition of Hall-marking, or the legalising of a multiplicity of Standards, as it is better that no opinion on these matters should be expressed by an official; but I may just say, for what it may be worth, that my experience has been that if Silver which is intended to be made up into goods not to be Hall-marked, accidentally comes to the office, it always proves considerably below Standard, and is condemned, from which it may be inferred that with a Voluntary System English Silver, instead of being as now, with but few exceptions, of recognised high quality, would soon become a very mixed description.

1893.

The Guardians and Officers of the Standard of Wrought Plate in
Birmingham, in the order of their Election.

WHEN ELECTED.

- 16th July, 1852.—The Right Honourable LORD NORTON, Hams Hall, Coleshill
 11th July, 1854.—The Right Honourable THE EARL OF WARWICK, Warwick
 Castle, Warwick
 11th July, 1854.—SAMPSON SAMUEL LLOYD, Esq., Gosden House, Bramley, near
 Guildford
 14th July, 1863.—The Right Honourable LORD LEIGH, Stoneleigh Abbey,
 Kenilworth
 14th July, 1863.—GEORGE FREDERICK MUNTZ, Esq., Umberslade Hall, near
 Birmingham
 11th July, 1864.—FREDERICK ELKINGTON, Esq., *Silversmith*, Newhall Street
 15th July, 1865.—SIR HENRY WIGGIN, Bart, The Grange, Harborne
 12th July, 1866.—CHARLES W. S. DEAKIN, Griffin's Hill, near Birmingham
 27th Aug. 1866.—THOMAS AVERY, Esq., Church Road, Edgbaston
 27th Aug. 1866.—GEORGE SHAW, Temple Street
 12th July, 1867.—HENRY BUCKLEY, Great Charles Street
 12th July, 1867.—HENRY WESTWOOD, Bristol Road
 20th July, 1868.—JOHN DENT GOODMAN, Esq., Edmund Street
 10th July, 1871.—GEORGE DIXON, Esq., M.P., Augustus Road, Edgbaston
 8th July, 1872.—JAMES H. MOLE, *Goldsmith*, Warstone Lane
 18th July, 1874.—WILLIAM ASHEY BOLTON, Carpenter Road, Edgbaston
 19th July, 1875.—FREDERICK B. GOODMAN, Esq., Edmund Street
 14th July, 1876.—FRANCIS S. BOLTON, Esq., Ampton Road, Edgbaston
 14th July, 1877.—WILFRED VAN WART, Summer Row
 14th July, 1877.—E. LAWLEY PARKER, Esq., *Silversmith*, Northwood Street
 13th July, 1878.—ROBERT LUCAS CHANCE, Esq., Chad Hill, Edgbaston
 10th July, 1880.—C. W. B. MOORE, Overdale, Shepley Hills, near Bromsgrove
 16th July, 1881.—EDWARD GEM, Esq., Belle Vue, Halesowen
 15th July, 1882.—CHARLES GREEN, Esq., *Goldsmith*, Augusta Street
 15th July, 1882.—G. H. JOHNSTONE, *Goldsmith*, Northampton Street
 14th July, 1883.—HENRY A. WIGGIN, Esq., Harborne Park, Harborne
 14th July, 1884.—JOHN B. HARDMAN, *Silversmith*, King Edward's Road
 14th July, 1887.—The Right Honourable JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, M.P., Highbury,
 Moor Green, Birmingham
 14th July, 1887.—EDWARD NETTLEFOLD, Esq., Westbourne Road, Edgbaston
 14th July, 1887.—WILFRED WILLIAMS, Esq., Elvetham Road, Edgbaston
 14th July, 1887.—WILLIAM EHRHARDT, *Watch Manufacturer*, Barr Street, West
 5th July, 1889.—Francis C. CLAYTON, Esq., St. James Road, Edgbaston
 5th July, 1889.—GEORGE SYDENHAM, *Goldsmith*, Tenby Street
 14th July, 1890.—JOHN HENRY LLOYD, Carpenter Road, Edgbaston
 16th July, 1892.—JOSHUA WILLIAMS, Pritchatts Lane, Edgbaston
 16th July, 1892.—JOSEPH WILLIAM TONKS, *Goldsmith*, Vittoria Street

Assay Master and Treasurer
 Law Clerk

WILLIAM WESTWOOD.
 J. B. CARSLAKE.

ASSAY OFFICE, BIRMINGHAM.

The Assay Master's Report for the year ending 30th June, 1898, and for the purpose of reference is included the figures for the three previous years.

	1890	1891	1892	1893
Dominical letter used small black letter	p	q	r	s
Gold Wares assayed and marked ... ounces	193,426	230,136	228,018	229,016
Gold Wares assayed and broken ... ounces	2,009	2,324	2,419	2,226
Silver Wares Assayed and marked ... ounces	1,089,250	1,240,982	1,347,275	1,276,317
Silver Wares Assayed and broken ... ounces	1,804	2,788	2,052	2,672
Number of Gold and Silver Wares entered for Assaying	5,621,188	6,183,045	6,622,302	6,467,922
Number of Assays made*	147,025	165,176	171,643	171,643
Amount of Plate duty collected	(a) £29,278	...	...	...

WILLIAM WESTWOOD,

Assay Master and Treasurer.

To the Guardians of the Standard of
Wrought Plate in Birmingham.

(a) For ten months ending 30th April when the duty was abolished by the Budget Act of 1890.

*The proportion of assays made with the number of wares entered is accounted for by the fact that this office marks a great number of light goods and ornaments such as sleeve links, studs, brooches, earrings, etc.,—which are sent in grosses. From each of such parcels we take a proportionate number selected here and there after the parcel has been sorted and sampled, and in this way a sufficient trial is made to justify the marking of the parcel of work.

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